

## Senate Joint Resolution No. 35

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 56

Senate Joint Resolution No. 35—Relative to American Indian health services.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 20, 2002.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 35, Brulte. Federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to pass legislation reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in the 107th Session of Congress.

WHEREAS, A major national goal of the federal government is to raise the health status of American Indians to the highest possible level by providing quality health services and to provide for the maximum participation of American Indians in the planning, management, and delivery of those services; and

WHEREAS, Despite existing health services, the unmet health needs of American Indians is severe and the health status of the individual is far below that of the general population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Indians suffer a death rate for diabetes mellitus that is 249 percent higher than the corresponding death rate of all other races in the United States; a death rate from pneumonia and influenza that is 71 percent greater than the corresponding death rate of all other races in the United States; a death rate from tuberculosis that is 533 percent greater than the death rate of corresponding races; and a death rate from alcoholism that is 627 percent higher than the corresponding death rate of other races in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) was enacted in the 94th Congress (P.L. 94-437) to implement the federal responsibility for the care and education of the American Indian people by improving the services and facilities of federal American Indian health programs; and

WHEREAS, The IHCIA provides for California's 109 federally recognized tribes and contains "special eligibility" language for thousands of nonrecognized American Indians who represent one-third of the eligible population through direct descendancy, who hold trust interests in public domain or allotments, and are members of the community served by local tribally operated programs funded by the Indian health services; and

WHEREAS, Both the House of Representatives, pursuant to H.R. 1662 and the Senate, pursuant to S. 212 are considering legislation that would reauthorize the IHCA ; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to pass legislation reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in the 107th Session of Congress; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the Chief Justice of the United States, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

